

**I DONOT Believe the People of This Country Will Be Even Momentarily Content to Barter With the Hun. Nothing Short of Absolute, Complete and Unconditional Surrender Will Be Accepted or Tolerated**

—SENATOR HARRY S. NEW

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**I WANT to See Complete Victory in This War; to See Tyrannical and Arbitrary Military Power Crushed; to See the Dawn of the New Era of the Peace of Justice.**

—CHARLES EVANS HUGHES

# Justice Gathers Her Stern Forces At Versailles

**Where One German Was Crowned Another May Be De-throned**

**A** GERMAN EMPEROR was crowned once at Versailles. Behind the painted arras of time the gods are preparing their ironic game. For it will be at Versailles again that another Emperor of Germany will meet the débâcle of all his hopes, the ruin of that mad and greedy ambition which urged him on to despoil the world. The dark draught has been brewing for him these many days. And now it would appear his time for drinking the bitterness and gall of utter defeat is at hand. The Hohenzollern meant to stand astride the world, but the world has moved, lifted itself mightily against the sky and a man and his men have learned again that there is no bondage powerful enough to hold humanity.

There is no brake on events, they flash by at a dizzy rate. It is like a growing flame, the disaster and breaking of what was once the Central Empires. Now the fire has spread to every part, the roof goes, the rafters crash, the windows are molten, the walls fall and there is a moment when the glare is spread on the whole sky before it begins to lose its heat and die down into smoke and ashes. The grandiose dream of a Middle Europe is at that point now. The structure that dishonor and might had built, imposing and menacing to the peace and honor of the world, is falling to pieces, caught up everywhere in the wind and flame that it tried to spread on the surrounding world. Bulgaria is gone, Turkey is gone, Austria-Hungary is no longer Austria-Hungary, but is scattered into the pallid embers of an empire that so long held the gaze of the world.

Justice, long delayed, gathers her stern forces. Germany, the arch-violator of civilization, sees the end before her and, desperate, is not able to hold against the tide of disaster. There is no escape. An inexorable fate awaits her, and whether she chooses to wait and be crushed or to deliver herself now makes little difference.

## A Realization of the Dramatic

It is assuredly a dramatic moment in history. But it is rare in that it allows itself to be disclosed in the fulness of all its dramatic values. There is no record of any time when the world was so well endowed to stand aside and taste the consequence of every climbing minute, to understand and appreciate the complete accumulation of piled-up events. The scene in all its parts has come together and is disclosed at once everywhere, like a living panorama seen under a lifted fog. History and poetry, long after the events they celebrate, provide something like this, though the actors and observers at the moment are alike unconscious of the significant parts they play. But civilization has changed that. The soldiers of democracies know why they fight. Statesmen are conscious of the parts they play, knowing that the eye of to-day and of all tomorrow is upon them.

Not a great deal is known of what is going on at Versailles. The representatives of the many nations that went to war for what man has gained and saved in his long toil up the slopes are not speaking loudly into the world's ear. They are seen there from so many places in the world, in the quiet palace that a

king built long ago, like silent actors, going through gestures that may be guessed at, but not yet understood. There is an air of preparation about it all, of expectancy in the air; out of all this tremendous events will burst. It is something imminent, a balanced moment, trembling on the edge of complete revelation. It is for that every one—friends and the desperate shifty foe—is waiting.

saillies carries in the history of its own origin and growth and development almost the entire history of Allied success in the war. The men who will make clear to Germany the bitter terms of her defeat are also the men who saw the Allied forces meet disappointment and defeat in the early stages of the war. They are, for the most part, the men who refused to give anywhere to the enemy, who carried their nations with them on through the cloudiest hours of the time when victory was no longer in doubt. Lloyd George attended the first Inter-Allied conference in Paris when he was the British Minister of Munitions. Foch was chairman of the military committee of

it is denied in others. Yet Germany is to have no part in bargaining as to her release on the world's destiny. The terms may be drawn up and imposed on her, by her submission if she will, by force if, caught in the trap she would have liked to have set for the world, she tries now to withdraw.

But the Inter-Allied Council from the beginning has never been a council of peace. From the beginning it has been a council of war, a council unchangeably fixed upon conquering the enemy. It met first in March of 1916, when Allied defeat pointed directly to the need of integration and unity of forces and facilities. This was the time when the Hindenburg steam roller had set its huge

eral general staffs represented. Concerted attacks were planned, in the East and the West, on the Italian and the Balkan fronts. A permanent economic committee was created.

The next step in the progress of Allied unity in conference at Paris was taken at the discussions initiated in June of 1916. Economic solidarity was the great problem, and Germany for the first time was notified that her war on civilization would operate to bar her in future from the fruits of civilization. German products would face some kind of exclusion after the war. There was a discussion of preferential tariffs to be carried out among the nations banded together in the fight. No definite public

**The Councillors of the Nations Prepare the Terms Germany Must Face**

In November, however, of last year, another call for council was sent to the nations, and their envoys went again to Paris. This time the United States was there in full measure. It was after the Italian defeat, and the demand for increased unity came from every hand. There was no other way to win the war. The war had to be stimulated, fought with all the resource and treasure at the command of all its participants if

pared the way for the events that have been disclosed since.

The history of that time, so recent as time goes, and so far from now by the measure of events, shows that there still remained some uncertainty in the Allied camps. It was already known that Germany would attempt a final shocking attack on the Western front in the spring. Military unity, such as it was later achieved under the incomparable Foch, was still incompletely developed. The Allies were plainly looking for a great leader, a man who might oppose the Hindenburgs and Ludendorffs on all fronts, using the Allied armies with the genius of a Napoleon. Foch, it was true, was already looming up in the Allied mind as the man for the post. But his elevation to it did not come until the German advance had spurred the Allied leaders on to overcome the psychological obstacles that stood in the way. And that was six months later, with the German armies already pointed at Paris and the Channel ports. Foch was given place in March. He has been disclosed since as a man who gives fate very little chance to master him, but who makes of every chance an instrument and servant to his aim. The German advance was for Foch the prelude to German defeat.

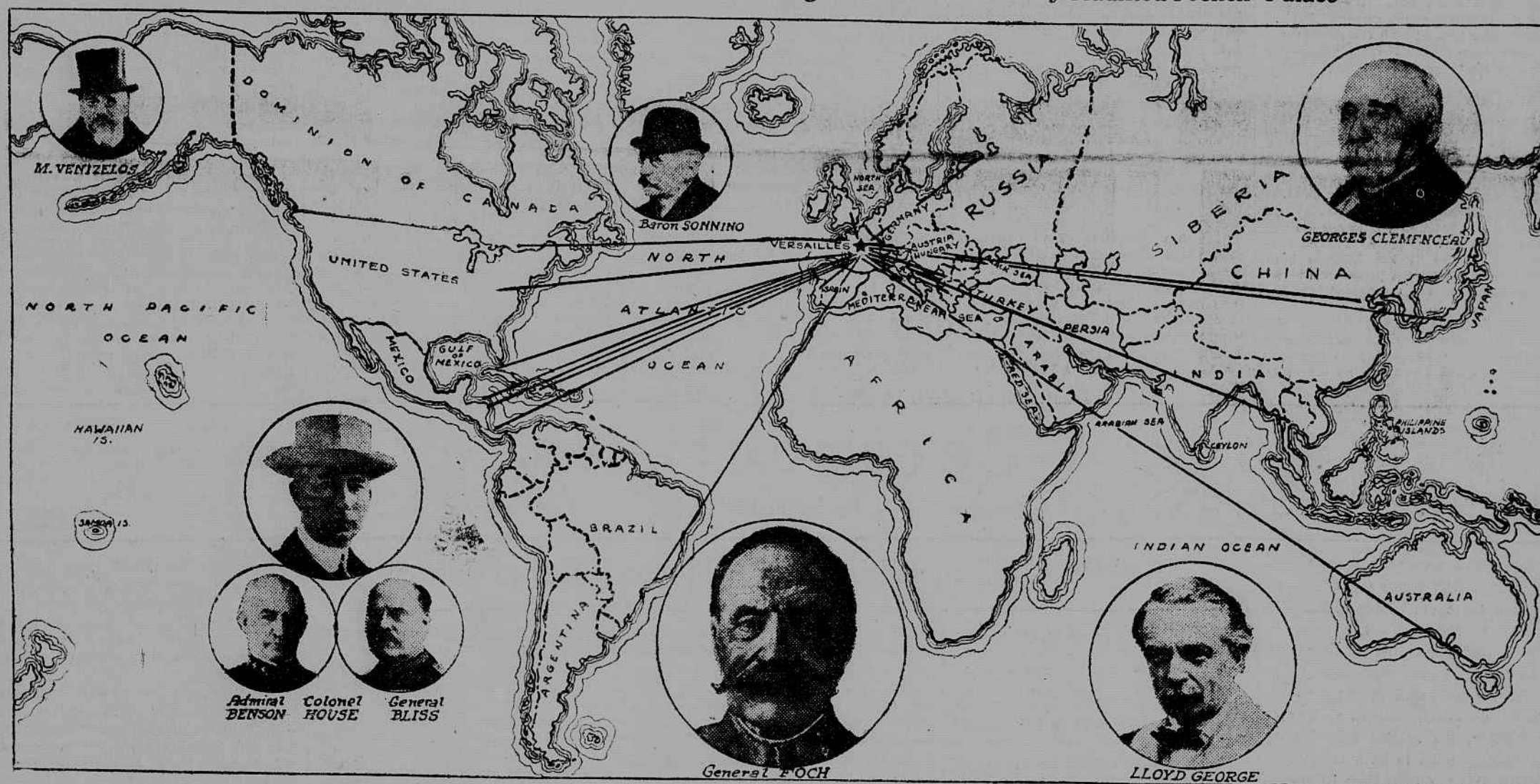
## When Talk of Negotiated Peace Crept In

As far back as last November it was clear that the very meeting of Allied representatives at Paris exposed the concerted nations to the kind of danger Germany knows best of all nations how to project. There was at this meeting a demand from various sources all over the world that there be an expression of Allied peace terms and aims. Peace by negotiation, a stranger term than it has become since, was being launched insidiously from many sides. Commentators on the present conference have not failed to point to the danger involved in a discussion in the midst of battle of such great and significant matters as must prepare for a reconstitution of the world's affairs. Where so many people are indicated, desires and ambitions assert themselves with great diversification. Yet if there has been danger, it was a double danger then, with the issue not yet so near a decision and much held by doubt. Germany's aim, it appeared, was to stimulate just such a discussion in the council, and by disruption of unity destroy the integrity of the powers aligned against her. It was of a piece with German craft. The Allied councillors sternly held themselves to the single purpose of battle, and it is due doubtless to their devotion to this cause that they may deliberately so calmly and with such certitude now on the terms of their victory.

Meanwhile only the soldiers are forgetful of an approaching end. They do not cease their unremitting pressure. What was Austria-Hungary a few days ago paid 50,000 men in a brief battle as a penalty for her stand on Italian soil. From July to November the record of victory has been unbroken. The Allies seem to be able to strike and win wherever they will. American troops are again on the move on the Western front, where the German armies fall back always, though not yet broken.

The enemy may surrender shortly to Versailles. If he does not, then the guns are already pointed toward Berlin.

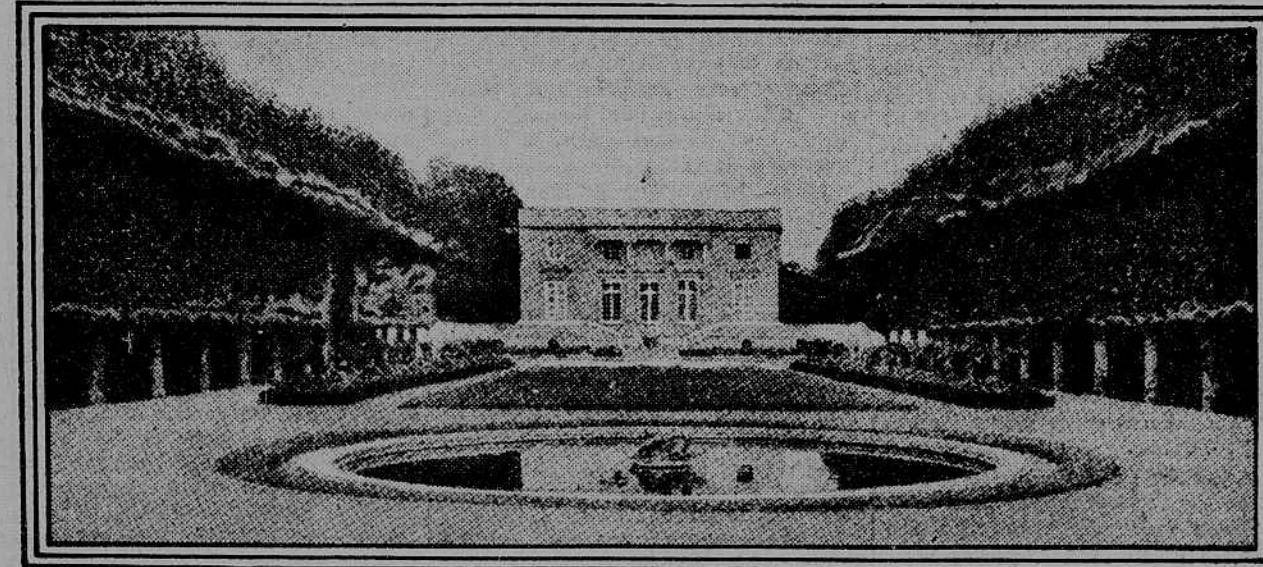
## All the World Watches the Drama Which Is Being Enacted in a Memory-Haunted French Palace



The War Council at Versailles will speak for the whole Allied world. The range of that world is indicated by the lines radiating from Versailles to each of the Allied capitals.

Versailles is not a city; it is something that a French king dreamed. There is a community there now, but they were people who came after Louis XIV had made the palace that seems now to express wholly a period in the development of French taste. Among these clipped gardens and marble staircases, these splendid avenues, the fountains and canals, the ambassadors of the guns and chancelleries cannot escape romance, however grim is their errand and however earnest the purpose toward which they set their faces. The memory of the first Napoleon lingers along its shaded paths. The armistice that ended our own War of the Revolution was signed there. The States-General of France met on its tennis courts and swore not to separate until they had made a freeman's constitution for France. A German army that besieged Paris once made its headquarters there. And now in the Grande Trianon the hours of German militarism are being numbered . . . and the sands have not long to run.

The council which deliberates at Ver-



the Allied War Council. Clemenceau gave the brief address which welcomed the Allied councillors when American representatives first participated in the conference in Paris. Colonel House and General Bliss and Admiral Benson were the first Americans to sit with the Allied nations. They are all there again to help draw up the terms for final victory.

There is a good deal of mystery now about the business which preoccupies these men. It is clear that the terms of surrender are being prepared. It is suggested in some quarters that with surrender will come the terms of peace;

mark on Russia. Serbia had been overcome, England had to look with discomfort on the recent spectacles of Gallipoli and Kut-el-Amara, and France was still reeling from the thunderous blows struck her at Verdun. Out of all this came the first War Council. Joffre and Castelnau sat in it, along with Kitchener and Lloyd-George and Cadorna. The great question of that time was the question of munitions and equipment, their equitable distribution as well as their manufacture. There was also a discussion of a more coherent military action, and agreement between the sev-

action has ever come out of this, yet it is so involved with the whole state of the world as it must develop when the guns are through, that it may be possibly now under the scrutiny of the conference at Versailles.

In the summer of last year another conference was held in Paris. The United States had already come into the war, but its relationship to its European allies, so far as the diplomacy of the war was concerned, was still vague and undeveloped. The conference had to do chiefly with the Balkans, and the United States did not take part.

To the left, below, is the Trianon Palace at Versailles, where the War Council is sitting.

the gage of victory was to be won from the crafty German hand. Lloyd George, faced by the increased questioning at home and the need of prompt action that would turn Germany down the way to defeat, was plain spoken. He was unwilling, he said, to accept any longer the "responsibility for the direction of a war condemned to disaster from lack of unity."

The result of this conference was the initiation of a Supreme War Council, with the Prime Minister of each warring land, or a civilian envoy, and a permanent military representative sitting in it. Colonel House was at the meeting, and President Wilson publicly indorsed the measures taken there for unity. It was, apparently, like the present conference, a session devoted wholly to business. There were no speeches. Each country was represented by a dozen or more envoys, and the work was accomplished by means of committee action. American influence in the conference, as reported by Colonel House on his return, was said to be "paramount," almost "unlimited." When the conference ended it had established the Supreme War Council at Versailles, a supreme inter-Allied naval committee, and had pre-